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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.55 and Add.1)*]

58/234. International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling its resolution 260 A (III) of 9 December 1948, by which it adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, as well as its resolution 53/43 of 2 December 1998, entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide", and its other resolutions relevant to the issue of genocide,

Recalling also the findings and recommendations of the Independent Inquiry commissioned by the Secretary-General, with the approval of the Security Council,[2] into the actions of the United Nations during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda,[3]

Recalling further Security Council resolution 955 (1994) of 8 November 1994 on the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994,

Recalling the report containing the findings and recommendations of the International Panel of Eminent Personalities commissioned by the former Organization of African Unity to investigate the genocide in Rwanda and the surrounding events, entitled "Rwanda: The Preventable Genocide",

Noting with concern that many alleged perpetrators of genocide continue to elude justice,

Recognizing the importance of combating impunity for all violations that constitute the crime of genocide,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See S/1999/340.

[3] See S/1999/1257, annex.

Convinced that exposing and holding the perpetrators, including their accomplices, accountable, as well as restoring the dignity of victims through acknowledgement and commemoration of their suffering, would guide societies in the prevention of future violations,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Executive Council of the African Union, at its second ordinary session, held in N'Djamena from 3 to 6 March 2003, that the United Nations and the international community proclaim, in commemoration of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, an international day of reflection and recommitment to the fight against genocide throughout the world,[4]

Recognizing that April 2004 is the tenth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda,

1. *Decides* to designate 7 April 2004 as the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda;

2. *Encourages* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as civil society organizations, to observe the International Day, including special observances and activities in memory of the victims of the genocide in Rwanda;

3. *Encourages* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to consider promoting implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Independent Inquiry into the actions of the United Nations during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda;[3]

4. *Calls upon* all States to act in accordance with the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide so as to ensure that there is no repetition of events of the kind that occurred in Rwanda in 1994.

78th plenary meeting
23 December 2003

[4] A/57/775, annex, decision EX.CL/Dec.16 (II).